

The Claims

The claims in the application are all allowable for the reasons given above. Independent claims 1, 8, 19 and 26 all recite basic, group and supplementary certificates or a combination of those certificates in which redundant data elements are listed only once in the basic or group certificate and not repeated in any supplementary certificates. For instance:

Claim 1 calls for a method requiring creation of both a basic certificate and a supplementary certificate for one key and then using the basic certificate in supplementary certificates for other keys that share redundant information with the basic certificate. Redundant information is recited as being in the basic certificate and not repeated in the supplementary certificate.

Claim 8 calls for generation of a single group certificate for several keys with all data elements necessary for all keys and key pairs generated in the single group certificate and recites only a single recitation of data elements redundant to all the keys.

Claim 19 recites a computer program product for generating a basic certificate that does not contain a key with a supplementary certificate with key and software for using the basic certificate for a future key that shares information in the basic certificate by issuing an additional supplementary certificate with a key from a new key pair.

Claim 26 recites a method calling for creating and using in a chipcard environment a basic certificate with no keys in combination with supplementary certificates containing the keys.

Dependent claims further distinguish over the prior art in that they recite further steps or structure not found in the prior art. For instance:

Claims 2, 3, 7, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 and 27 recite data elements in basic group or supplementary certificates recited in one or the other of the independent claims. Since there is no supplementary or basic certificates defined by the prior art, these combinations are not taught by the prior art.

Claims 22 and 29 relate to additional steps to be taken in claims 19 and 16 if more than one key is to be certified at one time.

Claims 15 and 21 further distinguish in that they call for a method to be followed when the basic and supplementary certificates of claims 1 and 26 are stored in the nonvolatile memory of a chip card.

Claim Objections

The spelling and grammatical changes mentioned in the Office Action have been made as required by the Examiner.

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p.27

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

The use of "()" and " / " has been eliminated from the claims, in light of the Examiner's remarks in the Office Action.

For the above reasons, the application is in condition for allowance and it is therefore respectfully requested that it be reconsidered, allowed to passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Murray".

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